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# INTERIM REPORT

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary Circumstances  
of the Borough**

*For the Year ended 31st December, 1940.*

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***Medical Officer of Health***—Arno'd Brown, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., resigned June, 1940.

John Cleminson, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H., commenced duty December, 1940.

***Sanitary Inspector***—W. J. Eversett, Cert. R.S.I., etc.

***Additional Sanitary Inspector***—H. Street, Cert. R.S.I.

***To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.***

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough of Congleton for the year ended 31st December, 1940. This report has been compiled as laid down in Circulars Nos. 1961 and 2067 of the Ministry of Health, and has been considerably curtailed.

Since, during the year under review, I have been your Medical Officer of Health for the month of December only, I cannot present a report based upon personal observations, but only upon statistics.

It appears that during the past year, the health of your district has been very satisfactory, especially as far as the prevalence of infectious disease is concerned, in spite of the large increase of population from all causes which has occurred in your Borough. The sanitary facilities have been adequate to deal with this increase of population.

It is a great pity that the outbreak of war has, of necessity, put a stop to all housing schemes. It appears that there will be a good deal to be done under these schemes at the end of the war.

## SECTION A.

*Statistics and Social Conditions.*

The customary notes on social conditions are not requested by the Ministry of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1940.

*Extracts from Vital Statistics.*

Estimated population	...	15,180			
			Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	{	Legitimate	...	218	124 94
	{	Illegitimate	...	2	1 1
Still births	...	...	...	14	10 4
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1940, - 14.3					
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, - 64.8					
Comparability factor, 1.02					
			Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	...	...	...	240	107 133
Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population ... .. 15.7					

Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list):—

	No. of Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	...	0
No. 30—Other Puerperal causes	0	0
Total	...	0

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All Infants per 1,000 live births...	45.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	41.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	500

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	35	15	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	0	0	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0	0	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	0	0	0

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which requires comment.

There does not appear to be any occupation having a prejudicial effect on health.

## SECTION B.

### *General Provision of Health Services for the Area.*

As regards the general facilities for nursing, there was no change.

A large house, Bradshaw House, Congleton, was taken over and converted into a hostel for evacuees of uncleanly habits, who are regarded as being unfit for ordinary billeting. The house replaces "The Quinta" which was taken over for the same purpose in 1939.

## SECTION C.

### *Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.*

**Water.**—There have been no new sources of public water supply during the period under review. The scheme for augmenting the existing supplies in the Borough has now reached a stage where the Ministry of Health has held a local Inquiry with reference to the application of the Council for consent to a loan for exploratory works at Hug's Bridge, and the result of this is now awaited.



The increased population due to Military and other War causes has increased the daily demands on our present water resources. Added to this, there have been increasing demands for trade purposes, which has caused much anxiety to the Department in their endeavours to cope with the situation, particularly when the existing daily yield becomes affected in drought periods.

The supplies from Forge and the College Grounds continue to be chlorinated, purely as a precautionary measure, and the Buglawton Borehole Supply is constantly treated for correcting plumbo-solvency action of the raw water by the addition of Soda Ash.

The following samples of water were forwarded to the County Analysts (Messrs. Melling & Ardern, Manchester) for examination during the year :—

Low Level Supply	...	5 samples.
High Level Supply	...	4 samples.
Corda Well Supply	...	3 samples.
Buglawton Old Supply	...	3 samples.
Buglawton Borehole	...	5 samples.

and their opinion given in all cases shows the supplies to be pure and wholesome and of sound bacteriological qualities.

There have been no main extensions carried out during this year.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The scheme to deal with the drainage and sewage disposal of West Heath and the Astbury Village in the Congleton Rural area is still in abeyance owing to present war conditions. Similarly, there has not been the necessity to carry out any sewer extensions owing to lack of building generally in the Borough.

The existing Sewage Disposal Works is still fully taxed, having to deal with increased trade effluent from the Dairies in the Borough which are operating on extra production to meet increasing War needs.

Samples of the 'Final Effluent' at the Works have been taken periodically for analysis by the County Authorities and the results prove to be satisfactory.



**Public Cleansing.**—There has been no deviation from the existing practice in the method of Public Cleansing, Collection and Disposal of House Refuse during the year.

Trade refuse is collected and disposed of by the Local Authority by arrangement, and under Government War Measures all Butchers' Offals and Diseased Meat is collected and disposed of outside this area under the instructions and supervision of the Ministry of Food.

In the Buglawton Area the closet pails and house refuse is collected weekly and deposited on a tip in the out-lying area.

During the year 2,778 tons of Refuse was collected and disposed of at the Refuse Tip. This figure is slightly in excess of last year's total, but a portion of the Buglawton area which hitherto did not reach the Refuse Works, is now included.

The local Salvage Scheme operating in accordance with the instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Supply has given very satisfactory results, and the Returns submitted monthly to that Department indicates the active part played by the Cleansing Department in this direction.

Constant attention is given to the destruction of rats on the Refuse Tip, and at breeding periods special precautions are taken to render the Tip as free as possible of these pests, and during the period under review 491 rats were destroyed on the Refuse Tip by the Corporation rat-catcher.

**Closet Accommodation :—**

Number of conversions from pails to W.C. during 1940 ...	8
Number of conversions from slop closets to pail closets during 1940 ... ..	0
Number of pail closets in built-up areas ... ..	229

**Sanitary Inspection.**—3 statutory and 255 informal notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector, 247 of which were complied with, during the year.

## SECTION D.

### *Housing.*

The customary table of activities under the Housing Acts is omitted.

Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	0
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	140
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit by service of informal action	...	...	...	41
Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	0
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	1
Number of separate tenements in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	0
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year				84
Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	84
Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	559
Clearance areas represented, declared and orders made during 1940	...	...	...	0
Clearance areas declared and orders made	...	...	...	0
Clearance areas represented	...	...	...	0
Clearance orders made in 1940 in respect of areas represented and declared during 1939	...	...	...	0
Clearance orders confirmed by the Ministry of Health	...	...	...	0

All housing activities have ceased during this year and nothing has been done with regard to slum clearance. It appears that many people in Congleton are still housed under unsuitable conditions, i.e.—in houses which should be condemned, or are condemned. The shortage of labour and materials aggravates considerably the difficulties which already lie in the way of trying to better the lot of these unfortunate people.

Owing to a large influx of evacuees, and the military, the housing accommodation in Congleton is strained to the utmost limits.

## *SECTION E.*

### *Inspection and Supervision of Foods.*

#### *Milk Supply :—*

Number of visits paid to cowsheds	...	...	79
Number of visits paid to dairies...	...	...	80
Number of producers of "Accredited" Milk	...	...	29
15 of whom are retailers.			

There are no producers of Tuberculin-tested milk.

Number of licenses issued by the Corporation to distributors of Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	2
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2 out of 33 mixed milk samples examined for tubercle bacilli were found to be positive and reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. It was later reported to the Senior Sanitary Inspector that one cow had been detected and slaughtered but the other had apparently been removed from the farm prior to inspection by the Veterinary Inspector.

2 samples of Pasteurised Milk were taken, 1 for Bacterial count, and 1 for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test. Both were satisfactory.

***Meat and other Foods.—***

Total amount of meat destroyed was 90,769 lbs.

Approximately three-quarters of this meat was taken from casualty animals, and the total weight destroyed also includes all offals. Killing is done here not only for the Borough, but also for a large portion of the Congleton Rural District, and other districts.

All samples of food and drugs examined by the Public Analyst during the year were found to be of the desired quality.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

***SECTION F.******Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.***

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the past year. The number of notifications of diphtheria, 23, shows a welcome reduction from that of the previous year, 44, and no deaths were recorded from the disease. An increased incidence of measles was recorded, but this increase was common with the experience of the country as a whole. The disease was of a mild type.

A diphtheria immunisation scheme is in force within the Borough and the following table shows the extent to which it has been used.

Number of children immunised, under school age	...	143
Number of children immunised, of school age	...	845
Total number of children immunised since inception of the scheme in 1939	... ..	1308

*Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the  
Year 1940.*

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	31	25	0
Diphtheria ...	23	19	0
Enteric Fever(including paratyphoid)	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	0	0
Pneumonia...	52	3	10
Erysipelas ...	5	3	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Measles ...	126	1	0
Whooping Cough ...	16	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	4	3	1

*Age Distribution of Infectious Diseases.*

Disease.	Under 1 yr.	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10- 15-	20- 35-	45-	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...		4	1	1	6	7	6 3	1	1	1
Diphtheria ...			2	2	2	5	4 5	1 2		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...								1		
Pneumonia ...	9	3	3	4	1	2	2	3 5	11	9
Erysipelas ...					1	1		1 1	1	
Measles ...	4	9	13	6	4	66	18 3	3		
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	5	1	1	5				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...	1				2			1		

*Tuberculosis.**New Cases and Mortality during 1940.*

Age Periods	New Cases				Mortality			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 yr. ...								
1-5 ...				3				
5-15 ...		1	2					
15-25 ...	1				1	1		
25-35 ...	4		2		2			
35-45 ...		1			1			
45-55 ...								
55-65 ...	1	1			1			
65 and upwards ...				1				
Unknown ...								
Totals ...	6	3	4	4	5	1	0	0

One death was of a case not notified.

*Factories Act, 1937.*

There were no certificates granted during 1940 in respect of Fire Escapes under the Factory Act, 1937, and no applications from Factory owners have been received during this period.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor for their help in compiling this report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN CLEMINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.







